

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: Y. MIYAKI et al  
Serial No. 09/978,708  
Filed: October 18, 2001

Group Art: 2827  
Examiner: L. Thai  
For: SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND ITS  
MANUFACTURING METHOD

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

August 21, 2003

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application  
as follows.